

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended): A method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing ~~component~~ unit, comprising the steps of:

- acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;
- acquiring characteristic information of the image processing unit;
- determining a color data format of color data in accordance with the

acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit ~~component~~ to output ~~transmit~~ the color data to the image processing ~~component~~ unit;

- generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and
- outputting the generated color data to the image processing ~~component~~ unit,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

15. (currently amended): The method according to claim 14, wherein the acquired spectral data is output to the image processing unit component when the spectral data format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

16. (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of color component data are generated by convolution calculation of the spectral data and a color matching function.

17. (currently amended): The method according to claim 14, ~~further comprising wherein~~ the step of ~~obtaining~~ acquiring characteristic information includes acquiring the information, for which the color data format is determined, from the image processing component unit.

18. (currently amended): A computer program product stored in a computer readable medium comprising computer program code for a method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component unit, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;

acquiring characteristic information of the image processing unit;

determining a color data format of color data in accordance with the acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit component to output transmit the color data to the image processing component unit;

generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

outputting the generated color data to the image processing component unit,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

19. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component unit, comprising:

an acquiring section, arranged to obtain spectral data which indicates an input color and to acquire characteristic information of the image processing unit;

a determiner, arranged to determine a color data format of color data in accordance with the acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit component to output transmit the color data to the image processing component unit;

a generator, arranged to generate the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

an outputting section, arranged to output the generated color data to the image processing component unit,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and

said generator calculates the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format by said determiner.